

*Slaughter Also Announces \$28 Million for Track Projects Along Empire Corridor*

**Niagara Falls, NY** – Today, Congresswoman Louise Slaughter came to Niagara Falls to announce \$16.5 million in federal grant funding would be coming to Niagara Falls to complete revitalization of the Niagara Falls Customhouse, soon to be known as the Niagara Falls International Railway Station.

The funding comes from the Department of Transportation's competitive TIGER II grant program which was enacted as part of the stimulus bill.

**“Just two months ago we were here breaking ground on Phase I construction of the Niagara Falls Intermodal Transportation Center. Now two months later I'm proud to be back to celebrate the award of \$16.5 million in federal funding to complete final construction. With this final funding piece the City of Niagara Falls can build out the project as one continuous effort,”** said Slaughter, New York's leading advocate for high-speed rail stretching across Upstate New York. **“More than 14 million tourists visit the Falls each year. And to support this influx of tourists we need to provide safe, convenient, and fast travel options.”**

“The Niagara Falls Rail Station and Inter-modal Transportation Center is elemental to the redevelopment of Niagara Falls,” said Mayor Paul Dyster. “Congresswoman Slaughter has understood this from the start and she has given us her time and support in seeking funding to make the project a reality. The City of Niagara Falls deeply appreciates her integral involvement over the years and her commitment to the future of our City.”

The Niagara Falls Customhouse, which was built in 1863 and operated by the federal government from 1867 into the 1980's, will soon be known as the Niagara Falls International Railway Station and Intermodal Transportation Center. The new hub, which is slated for final completion in 2011, will house an Amtrak station that will allow New Yorkers to travel nationally

and internationally, a border inspection facility and the Underground Railroad Interpretive Center which will feature historic exhibits detailing Niagara's role in Underground Railroad history as slaves escaped the south to find freedom in the north, and some continued on to Canada. The new complex will create a new economic dynamic in Niagara Falls by creating a transportation and cultural hub that will bring dollars, jobs and tourists to the area.

On September 2, Congresswoman Slaughter wrote to Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood supporting the last piece of funding that was announced today. Her letter is below.

On Thursday, Slaughter received more good news for high-speed rail in New York: \$28.46 million in federal grants were awarded to Empire State projects for track improvements in Syracuse, signal improvements on the Hudson line, and bridge improvements in Albany. While 18 states applied for funding, New York received approximately 12 percent of the available funds.

**“Anyone who says New York isn’t competitive with other states, is mistaken,” said Slaughter who supported the grant requests along with other members of the Upstate Congressional Caucus.**

Both announcements are evidence of a promise made in April when Slaughter brought Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood to the Rochester train station. He pledged the Obama Administration's continued dedication to high-speed rail projects and Slaughter vowed to make sure New York received its fair share of federal funding.

For more on Congresswoman Slaughter's work to bring high-speed rail to Upstate New York click [here](#).

**Slaughter's Letter to Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Supporting Niagara Falls Train Station Funding:**

September 2, 2010

Mr. Ray LaHood

Secretary

Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue

Washington, District of Columbia 20590-0001

Dear Mr. LaHood,

I am pleased to offer my support for the proposal submitted by the City of Niagara Falls to the United States Department of Transportation for funding from the TIGER II Discretionary Grants Program. Funding will be used to complete the final stage of the City's International Railway Station and Intermodal Transportation Center Project (IRS/ITC).

Phases one and two of the project are fully designed and are currently being implemented. Phase three seeks to relocate Amtrak's passenger terminal and establish a specialized border inspection facility adjacent to the U.S. Canadian Port of Entry at the Whirlpool-rapids International Bridge in Niagara Falls, New York. The historic Custom House is being renovated as part of Phase One to support the specialized border inspection facility. In addition to the

construction of a new terminal, phase three will entail track and signal upgrades, a dedicated passenger rail designed to eliminate conflicts with freight traffic and an improved passenger rail platform and building.

Site work, which will consist of the reconstruction of Bath Avenue and Whirlpool Street and the construction of a parking lot, will accommodate multi-modal operations including parking, buses and taxis. When completed, this project will result in a modern, accessible transportation terminal that improves operating conditions, access, mobility and security, while meeting the City of Niagara Falls' goals of sustainability and livability.

Once again, I am pleased to write in support of the City of Niagara Falls' TIGER II application. I hope that their application will be given full consideration.

Sincerely,

Louise Slaughter

Member of Congress